Government Charity Drive Draws Blast

By Lee Catterall Star-Bulletin Writer

The federal government was criticized yesterday by a group of federal employee unions for including anti-union organizations as beneficiaries of its annual charity drive.

Ben Toyama, president of the AFL-CIO Metal Traces Council, said the council may ask federal employees to boycott the Combined Federal Campaign because of its inclusion of the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, the Pacific Legal Foundation and other "rightwing" groups.

Inclusion of such groups, especially the Right to Work organization, has prompted national outrage from labor unions. The Right to Work group has fought laws requiring union membership of employees in a business where the majority of workers want the union.

In testimony this week before the Federal Executive Board, which coordinates inter-agency federal programs here, Toyama called the charity campaign "a fraud and an evil money-making machine for organizations other than humanitarian charities."

EXECUTIVE board director Gerry Silva said no money raised in the campaign will go to the Right to Work foundation or any other "national service agency" that is not designated by the employee in his contribution form.

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However, Toyama said the trades council, which includes 13 unions representing federal employees here, will not participate in a campaign "that raises funds for organizations that are not compatible with the principle and philosophy of the labor movement."

The Right to Work organization and other adversary groups were included in such federal charity campaigns this year by President Reagan.

Of nearly \$1.9 million raised in last year's Combined Federal Campaign, \$1.5 million went to Aloha United Way, about \$325,000 went to national health and international service agencies and \$42,783 was designated for national service agencies.

Silva said he expects a lesser amount to go to national service agencies this year because of a change in rules of distribution. National service agencies last year received a share of the money that was collected without designation, but they will receive no undesignated money this year, he said.